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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors (Shipping)
Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports
Geneva, 25 October 1993
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

At its 824th closing meeting on 26 March 1993, the Trade and Development Board approved the draft terms of reference of the proposed Intergovernemntal Group of Experts on Ports (TD/B/CN.4/20/Rev.1), which had been recommended to the Board by the consultations of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Services (Shipping) and interested delegations, and decided to convene the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports. (cf. the report of the Board on the second part of its thirty-ninth session, section I.A, item 10 (b)).

The basic idea of convening the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, was to increase involvement of the various actors of the port industry in the working methods of UNCTAD, as recommended by the Cartagena Commitment (paragraphs 84 and 85). The aim is to generate concrete and innovative discussions which will benefit the work to be carried out by the Standing Committee. Previous experience has shown these types of meetings to be very beneficial. In 1993, the delegations to the meeting will include government officials responsible for ports, representatives of port authorities, terminal operators from the public and private sectors and port users.

Item 1 - Election of officers

It is suggested that the Intergovernmental Group may wish to elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in Section 1 above has been drawn up by the UNCTAD secretariat in consultation with a number of delegations.

The Group will have five working days to complete its business. It is suggested that morning meetings be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The secretariat believes that the objectives of the meeting would be best served by a spontaneous exchange of views among the experts of all countries in an informal setting, and by a joint effort to draft recommendations on the items under consideration. The main issues to consider are the institutional structure of ports, port management, port efficiency, expanding the port's role to support trade, subregional cooperation and sustainable development. It would be useful if the Group's substantive deliberations in plenary could be completed by noon on Thursday, 28 October to allow ample time for preparation of the draft report which should be adopted on the afternoon of Friday, 29 October.

Item 3 - Port organization and management

Document : *Port Organisation and Management: report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/2)*, chapter I.

The Group is expected to review organizational factors that can contribute to a more efficient and effective port system and promote development of trade including issues relating to privatization, commercialization and deregulation. The recent UNCTAD studies on:

- *The principles of modern port management and organization (TD/B/C.4/AC.7/13)*;
- *Legal aspects of port management (UNCTAD/SHIP/639)*,

requested by the last Intergovernmental Group on ports, will serve as background documents.

The Group will also consider management principles and methods that can assist ports to become more efficient and develop sound policies for sustainable development. The issues of human resource development, strategic planning, port marketing and investment requirements will be examined. On the issue of investment requirements, the World Bank has been invited to present its policy and activities. In addition to the above-mentioned study (TD/B/C.4/AC.7/13), the following studies, also requested by the last Intergovernmental Group, will be used as background documents:

- *Strategic planning for port authorities (UNCTAD/SHIP/646)*;
- *Port marketing and the challenge of the third generation ports (TD/B/C.4/AC.7/14)*;
- *The management and development of human resources in ports (UNCTAD/SHIP/644)*;

The following report has been prepared on the issue of sustainable development which was included in UNCTAD's mandate at UNCTAD VIII and included in the terms of reference of this Group:

- *Sustainable development for ports (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/1)*.

Countries that have achieved results in the fields of port organization and management will be invited to present their experience to supplement the views presented by the secretariat and to better assess the potentialities for increasing subregional cooperation among ports. The Group may wish to draw up recommendations on the various aspects of organizing ports, at national and local level, in order to strengthen their capacities to respond to the requirements of trade. The Group may also wish to formulate recommendations on those managerial issues which will be considered essential to the achievement of the port's mission and objective.

Item 4 - Publications and technical cooperation

Document : *Port Organisation and Management: report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/2)*, chapter II.

The reports prepared at the request of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Group of Port Experts (24 -28 September 1990), and the monograph scheme developed in cooperation with IAPH will

be reviewed, as well as the Port Newsletter issued twice a year, as recommended by previous intergovernmental groups and approved by the former Committee on Shipping.

In addition the Group will review the various activities carried out by the secretariat in the field of technical cooperation and training. On average some 10 programmes of technical assistance are executed by the secretariat, alone or in cooperation with other United Nations organizations. In the training field, new training programmes have recently been developed, namely:

- Port equipment: policy, management and maintenance
- Strategic port pricing
- The challenge of the third generation port

Seminars are organized in Antwerp (Container terminal management) and Ghent (The new commercial role of ports).

Item 6 - Other business

Item 7 - Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group to the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors (Shipping)

The report of the Intergovernmental Group will be submitted to the Committee on Developing Services Sectors (Shipping) at its second session, tentatively scheduled to be held in April 1994.